

Investment in Private Lands Conservation Works!

- Robert Apodaca
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Assistant Chief - West
- Water and Natural Resources Committee
- Santa Fe, New Mexico
- June 30, 2011



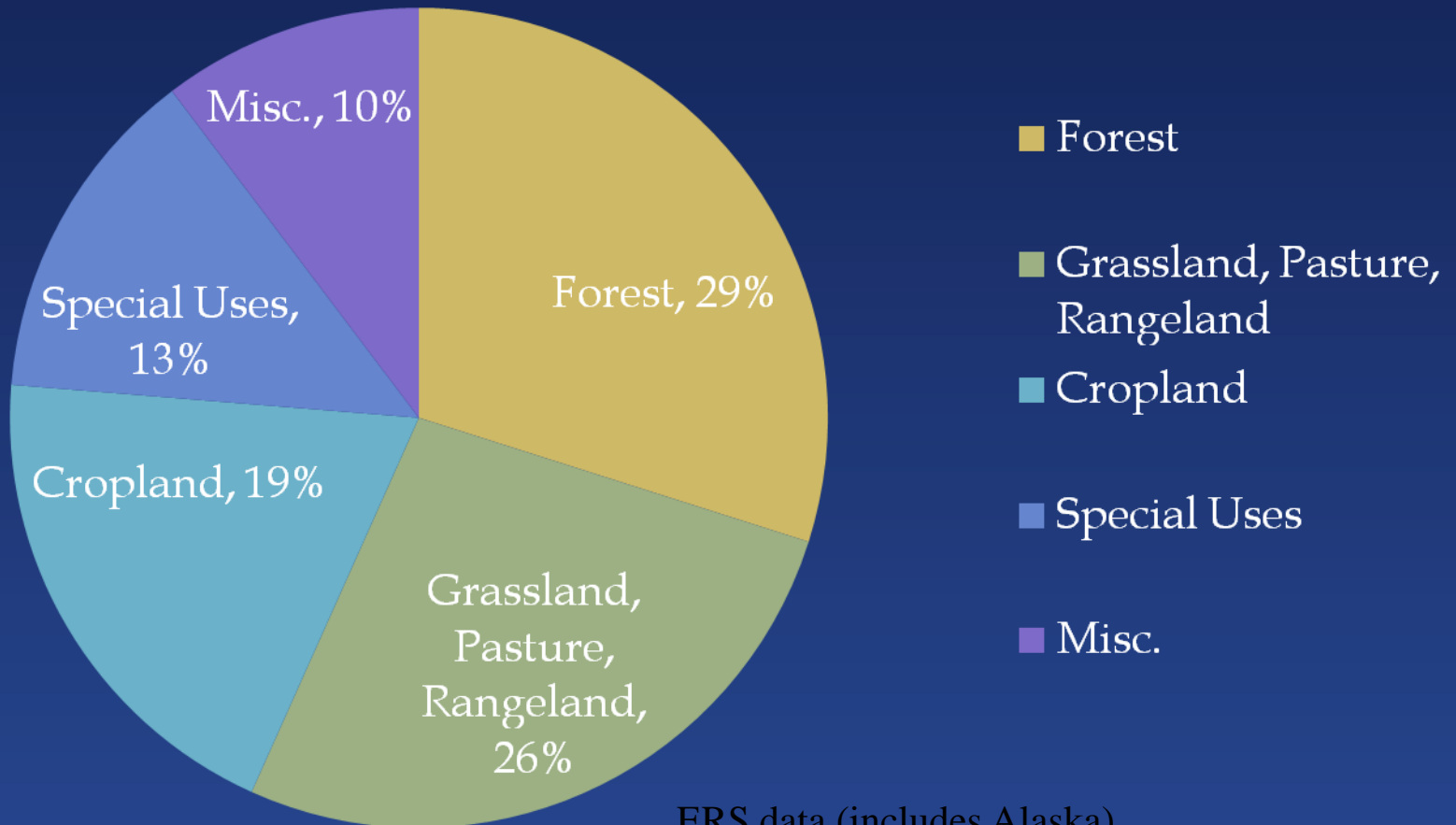
Conservation: “...an objective on which all should agree.”



Hugh Hammond Bennett

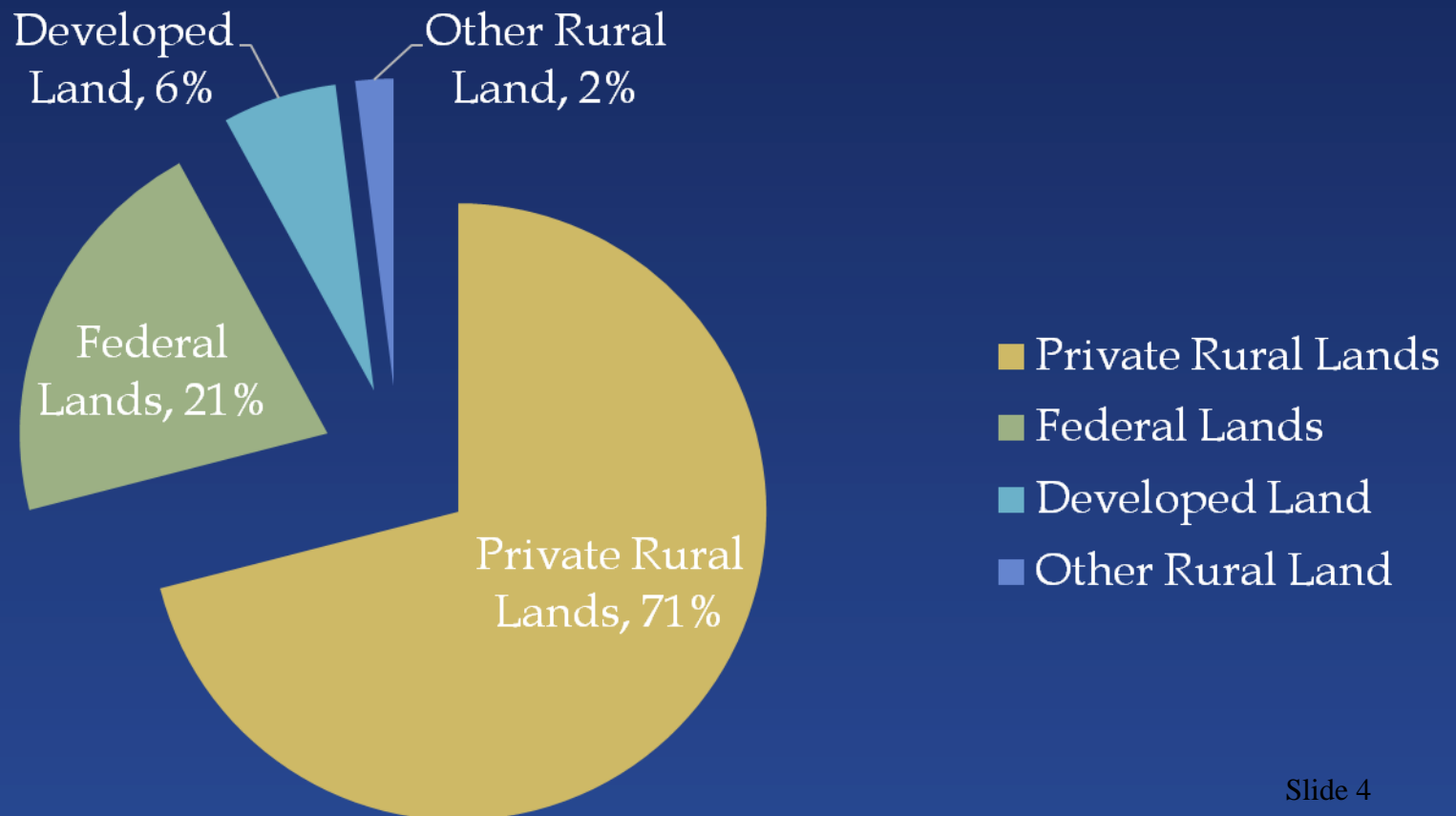
- **Conservation benefits everyone at every aspect of society:**
 - **Economic**
 - **Social**
 - **Cultural**
 - **Public health**
 - **National Defense**

U.S. Major Land Use



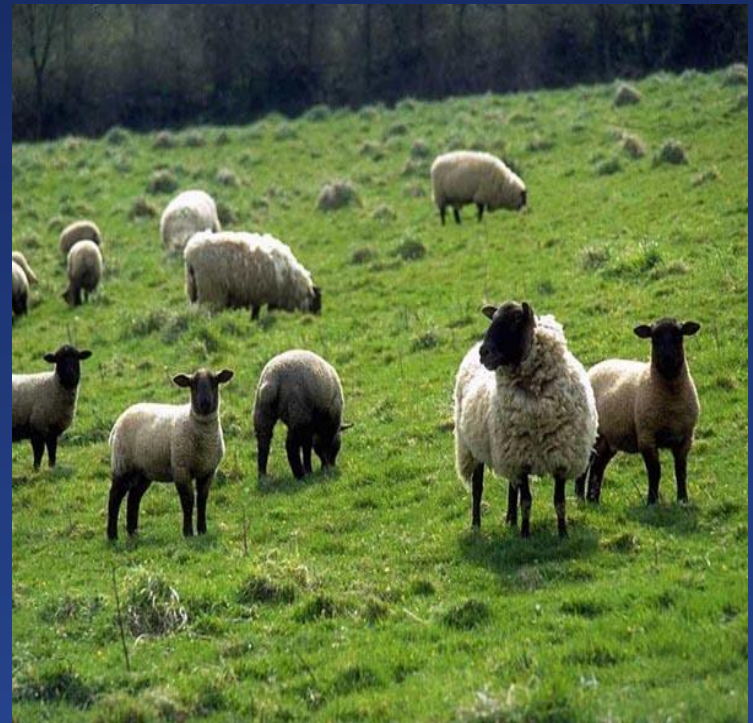
ERS data (includes Alaska)

Land Ownership in 48 Contiguous States



Agriculture in the U.S. Economy

- Less than 2 percent of population farms
- Value Added to U.S. Economy≈\$4 Billion (2008)
- \$41 Billion trade surplus (FY2011)
- Exports support > 1 million jobs



Conservation in Action

Before

After



Conservation in Action

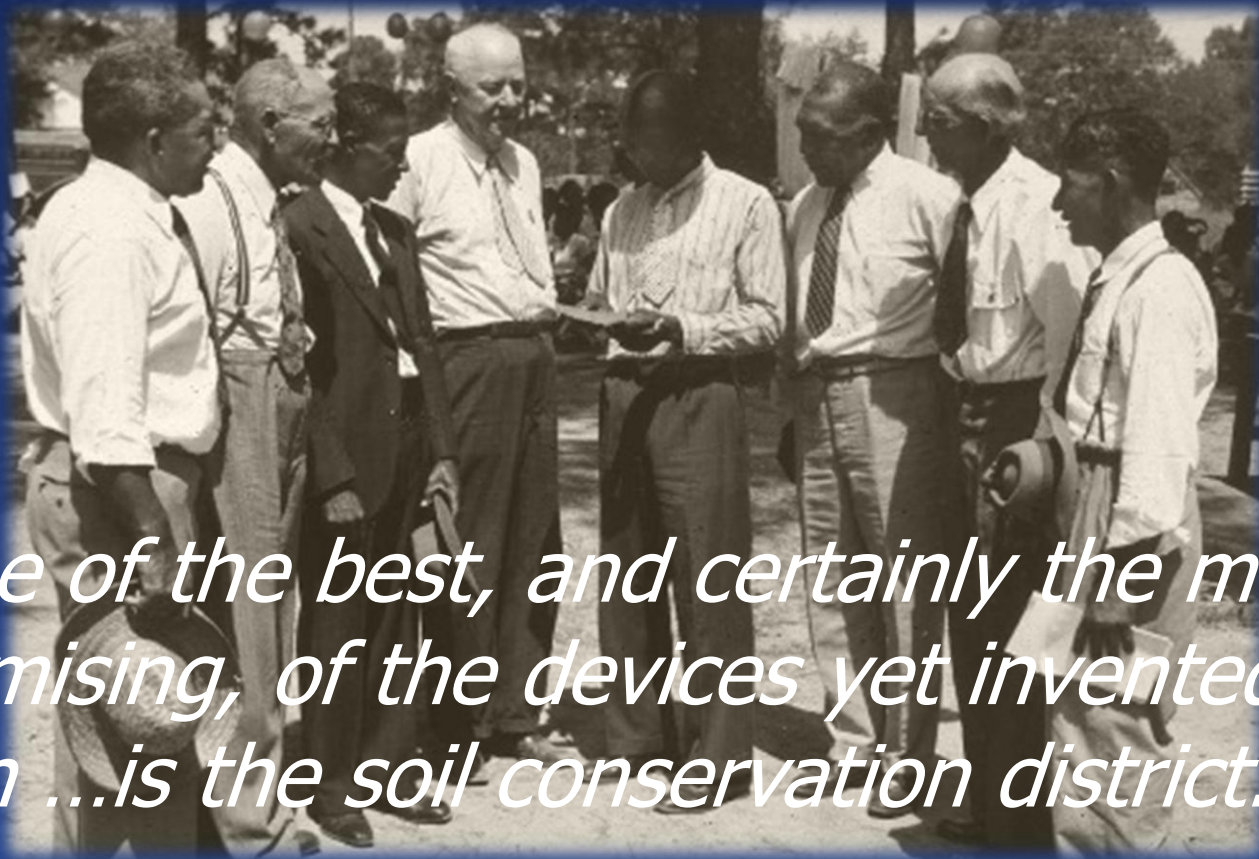
Stream Before



After Conservation



Partner Conservation Works for All Americans



"One of the best, and certainly the most promising, of the devices yet invented by man ...is the soil conservation district."

Investments in Conservation Works for Farmers, Ranchers, and other Landowners



- Maintains long-term profitability
- Precludes increased environmental regulation

Conservation Can provide Certainty to Producers

- Sage Grouse Initiative
- 11 Western states
- Prairie Chicken – NM
- Sand Dune Lizard
- Partnership Agreement
NRCS and U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service



USFWS photo

Conservation Must be Backed by Sound Science



- CEAP: Improve efficiency of conservation practices and programs by quantifying conservation effects
- Landscape results have yielded 40% greater results

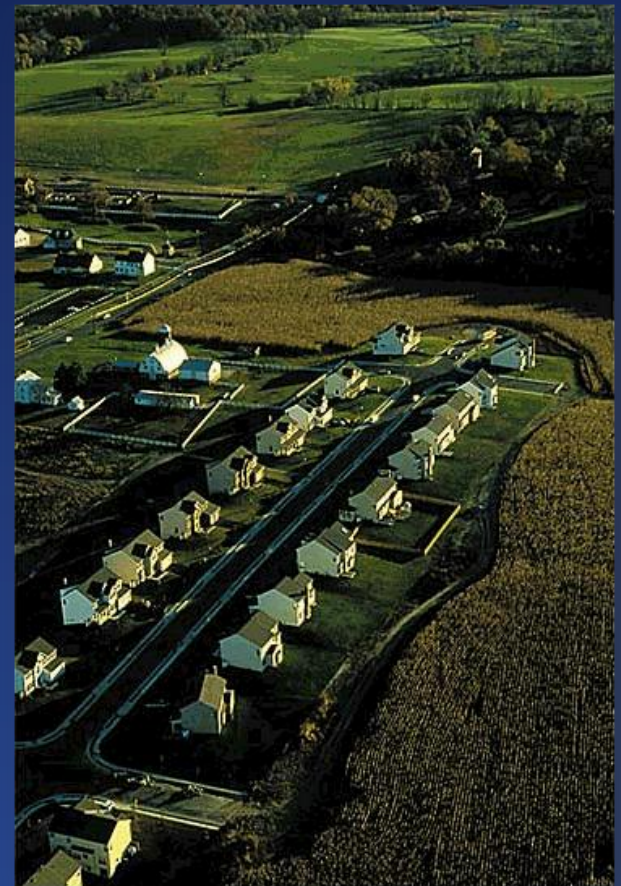
Investments In Conservation Works for Rural America



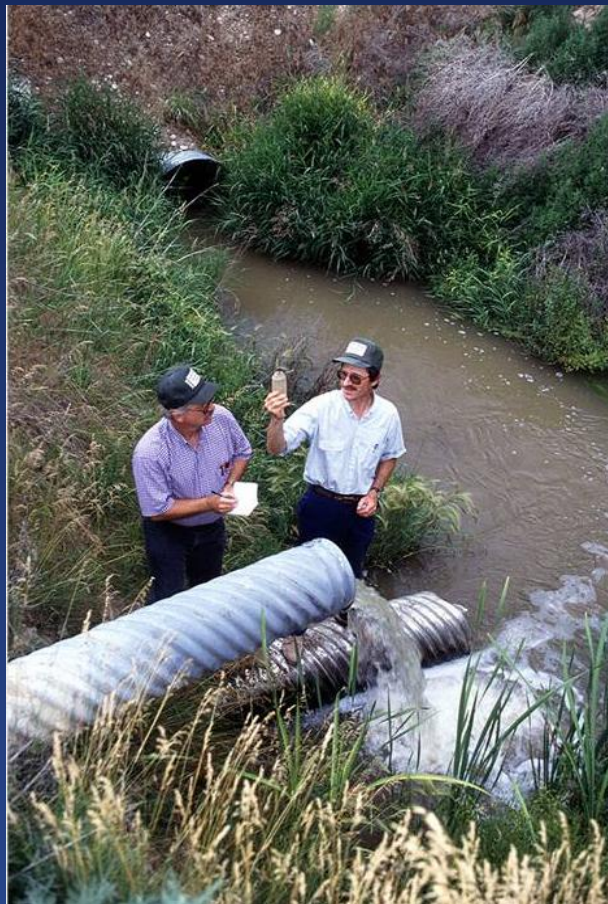
- Flood prevention
- Tourism & recreation
- Jobs & businesses
- Quality of life

Food Security: a Growing Challenge

- In the U.S. during the last 25 years:
 - 14 million acres of prime farmland were developed
 - 40 million acres of land were newly developed
 - $>1/3$ of all developed land in the lower 48 states was developed!



Water Quality & Availability



- USDA impacts 87 percent of America's surface supply of drinking water
- Agriculture accounts for 40% of all freshwater withdrawals and 80% of water consumption



75 Years of Helping People
Help the Land

